[being a decoding method of moving image signal for] the method comprising the steps of:

decoding at least two [or more] motion vectors relating to [the present processing] a pixel block of the stream of pixel blocks of a present frame;

compensating the motion of [the] at least two previously decoded image frames stored in a memory with respect to a corresponding [to each one of said] one of the at least two [or more] motion vectors [and];

generating a [two or more] predicted [images] image from each of the at least two previously decoded image frames for reconstructing [relating to] the pixel block of the present [processing pixel block] frame,

wherein the predicted image used in reconstruction of the present [processing] pixel block is selected depending on the presence or absence of decoding error contained in said [two or more] predicted images.

B1 cont

2. (Amended) A [decoding] method of decoding a moving image signal of claim 1, wherein if [there are] plural predicted images are free from decoding error in said [two or more] predicted images,

the predicted image produced from the latest decoded frame in time out of said [plural] predicted images free from decoding error is used in reconstruction of the present processing pixel block.

3. (Amended) A method of coding [method of] a moving image signal, the image signal being a stream of pixel blocks segregated into image frames, at least two decoded image frames being temporarily stored in a memory [being a coding method of moving image signal] for detecting and coding at least two [or more] motion vectors relating to the present processing pixel block, [characterized by] comprising the steps of:

inter-coding the present processing pixel block when the correlation of the at least two [or more predicted] images in memory when compensated of motion by

said at least two [or more] motion vectors is [high] greater than a predetermined value, and

intra-coding the present processing pixel block when the correlation of the at least [said] two [or more predicted] images in memory when compensated of motion by said at least two vectors is [low] less than a predetermined value.

4. (Amended) A [coding] method of coding a moving image signal, the image signal being a stream of pixel blocks segregated into image frames, [being a coding method of moving image signal] for detecting and coding at least two [or more] motion vectors relating to the present processing pixel block, [characterized by] comprising the steps of:

B' cont

storing at least two decoded image frames being temporarily stored in a memory;

[using] selecting [the] a predicted image produced from the latest decoded frame in time out of at least two [or more predicted] images in memory when compensated of motion by said at least two [or more] motion vectors; and

[is used in] coding [of] the present processing pixel block in accordance with the selected predicted image.

5. (Amended) A moving image signal decoding apparatus [of moving image signal] comprising:

variable length code decoding means for decoding at least two [or more] motion vectors relating to the present processing pixel block,

motion compensation means for compensating the motion of a previously coded frame [corresponding] with respect to each one of said at least two [or more]

motion vectors, and generating at least two [or more] predicted images relating to the present processing pixel block,

bit error detecting means for detecting a bit error from the output of said variable length code decoding means,

memory means for storing the bit error [detecting result] of said bit error detecting means, and

predicted image selecting means for recognizing the presence or absence of decoding error contained in said at least two [or more] predicted images, and selecting the predicted image to be used in reconstruction of the present processing pixel block.

B1 cont

6. (Amended) A moving image signal decoding apparatus [of moving image signal] of claim 5, wherein the bit error detecting means [detects] indicates a bit error in the present processing pixel block when the variable length code of the pixel block decoded by the variable length code decoding means is contradictory to a specified standard.

Sub B2

7. (Amended) A moving image signal decoding apparatus [of moving image signal] of claim 5, wherein the memory means stores the bit errors [in] of plural frames by plotting the pixel blocks in which bit error is detected in each frame in a map form.

8. (Amended) A moving image signal decoding apparatus [of moving image signal] of claim 7, wherein the memory means comprises plural decoding error map memories storing each frame consecutive in time, and [also has] changeover means, [and therefore] said plural decoding error map memories [are] being changed over by said changeover means, and issued.

9. (Amended) A moving image signal coding apparatus [of moving image signal] comprising:

motion vector detecting means for detecting at least two [or more] motion vectors relating to the present processing pixel block,

motion compensation means for issuing plural predicted images based on stored images from the output of said motion vector detecting means, and

intra/inter judging means for inter-coding the present processing pixel block when the correlation [of] at least two [or more] predicted images compensated of motion by said at least two [or more] motion vectors as the output of said motion compensation means is [high] greater than a predetermined value, and intra-coding the present processing pixel block when the correlation of said at least two [or more] predicted images is [low] less than a predetermined value.

B1 cont

10. (Amended) A moving image signal coding apparatus [of moving image signal] of claim 9, further comprising:

predicted image combining means for combining the at least two [or more] predicted images compensated by said at least two [or more] motion vectors, and

prediction error calculating means for calculating the prediction error from the output of said predicted image combining means and [the] a macro block of the present frame,

wherein the intra/inter judging means judges before processing by comparing the variance of present processing pixel block and the variance of prediction error from the output of the prediction error calculating means to judge processing before intra/inter coding, and processes next intra/inter judgement only when judged to be inter-coding.